



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST – AUGUST 2023

Request for a pre-application meeting in terms of Regulation 8 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

PROJECT TITLE (*This must include local municipality and/or district municipality and province*)

Proposed Highveld North-West and Lowveld Strengthening Project Eskom Borutho-Silimela 400 kV Transmission Line.
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION FORM:

1. This form must always be used for pre-application meeting requests where this Department is the Competent Authority.
2. This application form is current as of **August 2023**. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
3. The onus on Applicant/EAP to determine all applicable listed activities that would require Environmental Authorisation prior to the commencement of the construction activities. Should any revision of your development comprise any other activities that constitute a listed activity/ies as defined in GN R983, R984 and R98 of 04 December 2014, as amended, it must also form part of the Application for Environmental Authorisation.
4. Be reminded that it is not compulsory in terms of the EIA Regulations that a pre-application meeting must take place prior to an application being lodged with the Department.
5. This form must be lodged with the Department at least **one (1) month** prior to the requested meeting date.
6. Please note that the proposed date and time will be confirmed prior to the meeting.
7. A detailed motivation and agenda must be appended to this meeting request.
8. This form must be marked **“for Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations”** and submitted to the Department via email.
9. All fields are compulsory.
10. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. Spaces are provided in tabular format and will extend automatically when each space is filled with typing. A legible font type and size must be used when completing the form. The font size should not be smaller than 10pt (e.g. Arial 10).
11. **Note that the EAP is required to submit minutes of the meeting to the Department for approval as per the timeframes agreed to in the meeting.**
12. The Department reserves the right to refuse the pre-application meeting based on the information provided in this request.



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The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

Competent Authority Details

Online Submission only:

Email: eiaapplications@dffe.gov.za

Click <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms/legal> for guidance document which must be complied with in order to upload/submit files to this Competent Authority.

Physical address:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia

For Submission enquiries: Contact the Directorate: IEA Strategic Support, Coordination and Reporting at:

Email: EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za

For EIA related implementation queries:

Email: EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za

For EIA Related Interpretation queries in terms of the Listed Activities:

Email: IQ@dffe.gov.za

For SIP confirmation, please contact the SIP coordinator at the below contact details:

- Mr Alvino Wildschutt-Prins
Programme Manager: Infrastructure Pipeline Development & Management
SIP Programme Management Office
Cell: 072 650 2249
Email: alvino@presidency.gov.za
- Mr Avik Singh, Infrastructure Project pipeline (SIP Support)
AvikS@idc.co.za

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST – AUGUST 2023

1. COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Identified Competent Authority to consider the application:	Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment
Reason(s) in terms of S24C of NEMA:	<p><i>In terms of S24C(2)(d)(iii) The minister must be identified as the competent authority if the activity is undertaken by a statutory body performing an exclusive competence of the national sphere or government.</i></p> <p>The applicant for this application is ESKOM and the competent authority for this application will be the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.</p>

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

PROJECT TITLE (This must include local municipality and/or district municipality and Province)

Proposed Highveld North-West and Lowveld Strengthening Project Eskom Borutho-Silimela 400 kV Transmission Line Limpopo Province South Africa

Title	Mrs
Name of the Applicant	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
Surname of the Applicant	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
Name of contact person for applicant (name and surname) (if other)	Madinare Mukhuba
Company/ Trading name (if any)	Eskom
Company Registration Number	1921/006878/06
Physical address	1 Maxwell Drive, Megawatt Park
Postal address	P.O Box 1091
Postal code	2000
Telephone	011 516 7350
Cellphone	082 469 1336
E-mail	mukhubdm@eskom.co.za

Name of the Landowner	Please refer to Appendix 2 for the Landowner database
Surname of the Landowner	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal address	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal code	Click or tap here to enter text.
Telephone	Click or tap here to enter text.
Cellphone	Click or tap here to enter text.
E-mail	Click or tap here to enter text.

Name of the Person in control of the land	Please refer to Appendix 2.
Surname of the Person in control of the land	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal address	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal code	Click or tap here to enter text.
Telephone	Click or tap here to enter text.
Cellphone	Click or tap here to enter text.
E-mail	Click or tap here to enter text.

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST – AUGUST 2023

In instances where there is more than one landowner, please attach a list of those landowners with their contact details as APPENDIX 2.

Provincial Environmental Authority:	Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
Name of contact person in Environmental Section (name and surname)	Mr Rhulani Mthombeni
Postal address	20 Hans Van Rensburg St, Polokwane Central, Polokwane
Postal code	0700
Telephone	015 293 8300
Cellphone	N/A
E-mail	mthombeniRV@ledet.gov.za

Local Municipality	Please refer to Appendix 3
Name of contact person in Environmental Section (name and surname)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal address	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal code	Click or tap here to enter text.
Telephone	Click or tap here to enter text.
Cellphone	Click or tap here to enter text.
E-mail:	Click or tap here to enter text.

In instances where there is more than one Local/Provincial Authority involved, please attach a list of those Local/ Provincial Authorities with their contact details as APPENDIX 3. Ensure that the details provided above are verified and valid.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP) INFORMATION

Company of Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)	NTC Environmental (Pty) Ltd
EAP name and surname	Karabo Mashabela
EAP Qualifications and Professional affiliations	B.Sc. Environmental Science B.Sc. (Hons) Environmental Management MSc Environmental Science and Geography Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) – 2019/4157
Physical address	1 Protea Place, CDH Building, 10 Fredman Drive, Sandton
Postal address	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal code	2031
Telephone	011 462 2022
Cellphone	072 721 4835/ 072 738 3836
E-mail	karabo@ntcgroup.co.za / tebogo@ntcgroup.co.za

4. MEETING DETAILS

Purpose of the meeting request	The proposed project entails the construction of a 400kV power line to connect Silimela Substation and the Borutho Substation. It should be noted that the proposed project was previously issued with an environmental authorisation on the 19 April 2011 with a validity period of 5 years. Eskom could not commence with construction activities of the power line within the given time and requested an extension of validity of the EA. DEA
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PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST – AUGUST 2023

		<p>issued Eskom with extensions that were valid until 14 April 2020. Prior to expiry of the EA in April 2020 Eskom requested a further extension of the EA and this request was rejected by the Department on 28 February 2020. The reason for rejection of the amendment was that validity of this EA would have been for a period of more than 10 years and that environmental conditions on site would have changed. Therefore, Eskom appointed NTC Group was appointed to undertake the EIA Process for the project which was initially authorised in April 2011.</p> <p>The project scope of work and the requirements as indicated in the DFFE Screening Report are clear and the EAP is of the opinion that a pre-application meeting will not be required. NTC did however propose dates should the Department see it fit that a pre-application. meeting should be conducted.</p> <p>In general the purpose of an pre-application meeting is outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To present an overview of the proposed project • To discuss the Integrated Application process to be undertaken • To discuss the specialists to be appointed • To discuss the public participation process to be undertaken. 	
Any advice requested before from the Department on this project i.e., from IQ or via email (attached response received)		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Applicant Category	Application by Parastatal		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Organ of State		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Private Individual/Parties		<input type="checkbox"/>
Application type	Application for EA		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Application for Integrated EA		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Application for Amendment of an EA		<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed meeting date and timeslot as well as three alternative dates and timeslots			
Date	Timeslot		
	Start time	End time	
1 8 February 2024	10h00	11h00	
2 12 February 2024	10h00	11h00	
3 15 February 2024	10h00	11h00	
Duration of the meeting	1 Hour		
Estimated number of people attending meeting	6		

5. SITE DESCRIPTION

Provide a detailed description of the site involved in the application.

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST – AUGUST 2023

Province/s	Limpopo Province
District Municipality/ies	Greater Sekhukhune, Capricorn, and Waterberg District Municipalities
Local Municipality/ies	Lepelle-Nkumpi , Mogalakwena , Modimolle-Mookgopong and Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality
Ward number/s	Lepelle-Nkumpi Ward 9 Mogalakwena 12, 13,16,18,20 and 32 Modimolle-Mookgopong 14 Ephraim Mogale 5
Nearest town/s	Mokopane
Farm name/s and number/s	Farm Gillimberg 861 LR Farm Frietfontein 2 KS Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS Farm Oorlogsfontein 45 KS Farm Rooipoort 46 KS Farm 1046 KS Farm Vlakpan 136 KS Farm Doelen 327 KR Farm Zoetfontein 330 KR Farm Bokpoort 328 KR Farm Platdoorns 333 KR Farm Hartebeestfontein 355 KR Farm Derdekraalpoort 543 KR Farm Haardekraal 547 KS Farm Vlaklaagte 544 KR Farm Klavervalley 542 KR Farm Geluksfontein 547 KR Farm De Hoop 617 KS Farm Klipgat 618 KS
Portion number/s	Portion 0 of Farm Ga Puka Portion 0 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR Portion 7 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR Portion 9 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR Portion 17 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR Portion 8 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR Portion 6 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR Portion 30 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR Portion 10 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR Portion 29 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR Portion 47 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR Portion 1521 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1489 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1567 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1435 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1566 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1486 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1443 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1446 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS

	<p> Portion 1533 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1491 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1517 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1481 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1482 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1539 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1529 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1474 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1568 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1438 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1432 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1427 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1426 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1520 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1537 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1483 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1440 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 1439 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 48 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 52 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 17 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 98 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 100 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 144 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 41 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 40 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 58 of Farm Uitloop 3 Portion 46 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR Portion 59 of Farm Uitloop 3 Portion 55 of Farm Uitloop 3 Portion 62 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 35 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 175 of Farm Uitloop 3 Portion 57 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 140 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 80 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 75 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 73 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 47 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 49 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust KS Portion 2 of Farm Weltevrede Portion 9 of Farm De Hoop Portion 1 of Farm De Hoop Portion 6 of Farm Klavervalley Portion 2 of Farm Ceres Portion 7 of Farm Geluksfontein Portion 5 of Farm Springhaan Slaagte Portion 0 of Farm Rondeberg Portion 7 of Farm Conterberg Portion 17 of Farm Conterberg Portion 1 of Farm Weltevrede Portion 9 of Farm Conterberg Portion 11 of Farm Haarde Kraal Portion 5 of Farm Klavervalley Portion 1 of Farm Doornlaagte Portion 2 of Farm Rondeberg </p>
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PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST – AUGUST 2023

	Portion 2 of Farm Mooigelegen Portion 3 of Farm De Hoop Portion 3 of Farm Doornstock Portion 1 of Farm Rondeberg Portion 23 of Farm Conterberg Portion 3 of Farm De Bults Punt Portion 4 of Farm De Bults Punt Portion 3 of Farm Springhaa Nslaagte Portion 8 of Farm De Hoop Portion 0 of Farm Springhaa Nslaagte Portion 2 of Farm Oranjefon Tein Portion 3 of Farm Oranjefon Tein Portion 5 of Farm Conterberg Portion 12 of Farm Springhaa Nslaagte Portion 7 of Farm Klavervally Portion 1 of Farm Doornstock Portion 10 of Farm Conterberg Portion 3 of Farm Ceres Portion 4 of Farm Hartebeest Fontein Portion 1 of Farm Haakdoorn Kuil Portion 0 of Farm Rondon Portion 3 of Farm Klippgat Portion 0 of Farm Knoppiesdo Ornbom Portion 0 of Farm Zoetfontein Portion 0 of Farm Haardekraal Portion 4 of Farm Klavervally Portion 0 of Farm Doornlaagte Portion 8 of Farm Geluksfontein Portion 16 of Farm Conterberg Portion 1 of Farm Mooigelegen Portion 1 of Farm Rondon Portion 0 of Farm Gegund
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Surveyor General 21 digit code:

(If there are more than 4, please attach a list with the rest of the codes as APPENDIX 4. Where the 21-digit SGID and farm name are not available, the coordinates of the boundary of the property or properties must be provided in 4.

REFER TO APPENDIX 4				
1	2	3	4	5

Coordinates of Property/ies boundary (corner points or start, middle, end)

Coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 co-ordinate system.

FEATURE	LATITUDE (S)			LONGITUDE (E)		
	DEG	MIN	SEC	DEG	MIN	SEC
Start Point 1	23°	54'24	97"	28°	58'41	96"
Middle Point 2	24°	31'21	81"	28°	57'45	01"
End Point 3	25°	5'13	31"	29°	17'57	47"

N.B. This template/table must be used to provide additional coordinates for relevant infrastructure which must be included in APPENDIX 4.

Locality map and Project Plan:

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PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST – AUGUST 2023

Locality map:	<p>A locality map must be attached to the application form, as APPENDIX 5. The scale of the locality map must be at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must be legible and of high resolution. The map must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any; • road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s) • a north arrow; • scale indicator; • a legend (which explains all symbols used on the map); • the prevailing wind direction; • site sensitivities, including but not limited to vegetation, wetlands, watercourses, heritage sites, critical biodiversity area/s, World Heritage Site, etc. and it must be overlaid by the study area; and • GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the proposed activity with the latitude and longitude at the centre point for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees, minutes and seconds. The seconds should be to at least two decimal places. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national or local projection).
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6. ACTIVITIES APPLIED FOR

For an application for environmental authorisation that involves more than one listed activity that, together, make up one development proposal, all the listed activities pertaining to this application must be provided below.

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates. Ensure to include thresholds/area/footprint applicable.
12	<p>GN R. 327 (as amended) Activity 12: The development of – (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more, where such development occurs</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse; and (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</p>	<p>The proposed project will require the placement of linear infrastructure (i.e., power line) with a combined physical footprint of more than 100m²</p> <p>As the site consists of a number drainage lines and watercourses, the road and/or powerline will cross these watercourses or drainage lines or be within 32m thereof.</p>
19(i)(a)	<p>GN R. 327 (as amended) Activity 19: The infilling or depositing of any materials of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from (i) a watercourse;</p>	<p>The topsoil used within the facility will be removed from the identified areas within the site. This might include areas identified within wetlands.</p> <p>An aquatic specialist has been appointed to conduct an impact assessment. This activity will be confirmed by the findings of the appointed specialist</p>
27	<p>GN R. 327 (as amended) Activity 127 The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—</p> <p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</p> <p>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>The construction of the proposed on-site substation will require the clearance of an area of up to approximately 1 hectare (ha) of indigenous vegetation.</p>

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST – AUGUST 2023

28(ii)	<p>GN R. 327 (as amended) Activity 28: Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</p> <p>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;</p>	The proposed project site is zoned as agricultural land and will continue to be used for agricultural purposes should the proposed project receive environmental authorisation. Substations and associated powerlines, covering 1ha or more, would form part of the application.
Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Scoping and EIA Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates. Ensure to include thresholds/area/footprint applicable.
9	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 Kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex.	<p>The proposed project entails the development of a 400kV powerline and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>It should be noted that this project triggers Basic Assessment process, since the project is located in an Electricity Grid Infrastructure (EGI) Corridor.</p>
Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates. Ensure to include thresholds/area/footprint applicable.
4(f)(i) (ee)	<p>GN R. 324 (as amended) Activity 4: The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres—</p> <p>e. Limpopo</p> <p>(i) Outside urban area.</p> <p>(ee) Critical Biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p>	<p>Access roads that form part of the service infrastructure will be required for the construction and operation of the 400kV power line. In most cases, access is easily available existing road networks.</p> <p>These roads might occur within critical biodiversity areas as identified in the systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</p> <p>A Terrestrial and Aquatic specialist have been appointed to conduct an impact assessment. This activity will be confirmed by the findings of the appointed specialists.</p>
12 (e) (i) (ii)	<p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation in the</p> <p>(e) Limpopo Province (ii)</p>	<p>In some areas, development of infrastructure will require the clearance of more than 300m2 of indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>The project site is located within the Limpopo Province</p>
14(ii)(a)(c)(f)(i) (ff)	<p>GN R. 324 (as amended) Activity 14: The development of—</p> <p>(ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;.</p>	The proposed facility occurs within a physical footprint of more than 10 square metres and might span across watercourses.

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST – AUGUST 2023

	<p>Where such development occurs-</p> <p>(a) Within a watercourse;</p> <p>(c) If no development setback has been adopted within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p> <p>e. Limpopo</p> <p>(i) Outside urban area.</p> <p>(ff) Critical Biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p>	<p>An aquatic specialist has been appointed to conduct an impact assessment. This activity will be confirmed by the findings of the appointed specialist.</p>
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7. OTHER AUTHORISATIONS REQUIRED

Are there any other applications for Environmental Authorisation on the same property?		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, please indicate the following:			
Competent Authority	DFFE		
Application Reference Number	DFFE Ref:		
Project Name	Click or tap here to enter text.		
Please provide details of the steps taken to ascertain this information:			
Confirmation from the applicant was received.			
Explain whether the above approval(s) will be in conflict with the proposed development.			
The above approval will not be in conflict with the proposed development. This new integrated application process is being treated as a separate process from the existing approval			

8. OTHER LEGISLATION/APPROVAL

Applications in terms of the National Environmental Management Act ("NEMA") & specific environmental management Acts ("SEMA's"):

LEGISLATION	AUTHORISATION REQUIRED		APPLICATION SUBMITTED	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
Is Section 50(5) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act applicable to your proposed development? (The proposed development is within a proclaimed protected area as defined the Act.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act No. 39 of 2004)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (Act No. 24 of 2008)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST – AUGUST 2023

LEGISLATION	AUTHORISATION REQUIRED		APPLICATION SUBMITTED	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act No. 57 of 2003)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Others: Please specify N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. LIST OF APPENDICES

		SUBMITTED	
		YES	NO
APPENDIX 1	PRE-APPLICATION MEETING AGENDA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
APPENDIX 2	LIST OF LANDOWNERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
APPENDIX 3	LIST OF LOCAL/PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY INVOLVED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
APPENDIX 4	LIST OF SGIDS AND COORDINATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
APPENDIX 5	LOCALITY MAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
APPENDIX 6	SCREENING TOOL REPORT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
APPENDIX 7	Other N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**APPENDIX 1
PRE-APPLICATION MEETING AGENDA**

1. INTRODUCTION
2. PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE BORUTHGO-SILIMELA 400KV POWER LINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE.
3. DISCUSS THE PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED AS PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS (DISCUSS AND CONFIRM THE PROPOSED OVERALL PROCESS FOR THE BA, INCLUDING THE APPLICABLE LISTED ACTIVITIES).
4. DISCUSS THE OVERVIEW OF SPECIALIST STUDIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF THE EA APPLICATION PROCESS.
5. SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON ANY KEY STUDIES REQUIRED; AND
6. APPROACH FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
7. MEETING CLOSURE

APPENDIX 2:
LIST OF LANDOWNERS (Attached)

APPENDIX 3: LIST OF LOCAL/PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY INVOLVED (WITH CONTACT DETAILS)

Local Municipality	Lepelle-Nkumpi
Name of contact person in Environmental Section (name and surname)	Mr Lwaleng Kanyane
Postal address	Private Bag X07, Chuenespoort
Postal code	0745
Telephone	015 633 4574
Cellphone	N/A
E-mail:	lwaleng.kanyane@lepelle-knumpi.gov.za

Local Municipality	Mogalakwena Local Municipality
Name of contact person in Environmental Section (name and surname)	M Berrange
Postal address	P.O.Xox 34, Mokopane
Postal code	0600
Telephone	015 491 9685
Cellphone	N/A
E-mail:	berrangem@mogalakwena.gov.za

Local Municipality	Modimolle-Mookgopong Local Municipality
Name of contact person in Environmental Section (name and surname)	Mr N.B Thobela
Postal address	Private Bag X1008, Modimolle
Postal code	0510
Telephone	014 717 4077
Cellphone	Click or tap here to enter text.
E-mail:	N/A

Local Municipality	Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality
Name of contact person in Environmental Section (name and surname)	Mr C Badenhorst
Postal address	P.O.Box 111, Marble Hall
Postal code	0450
Telephone	013 766 6060
Cellphone	N/A
E-mail:	cbadenhorst@emogalelm.gov.za

APPENDIX 4: LIST OF SGIDS AND COORDINATES

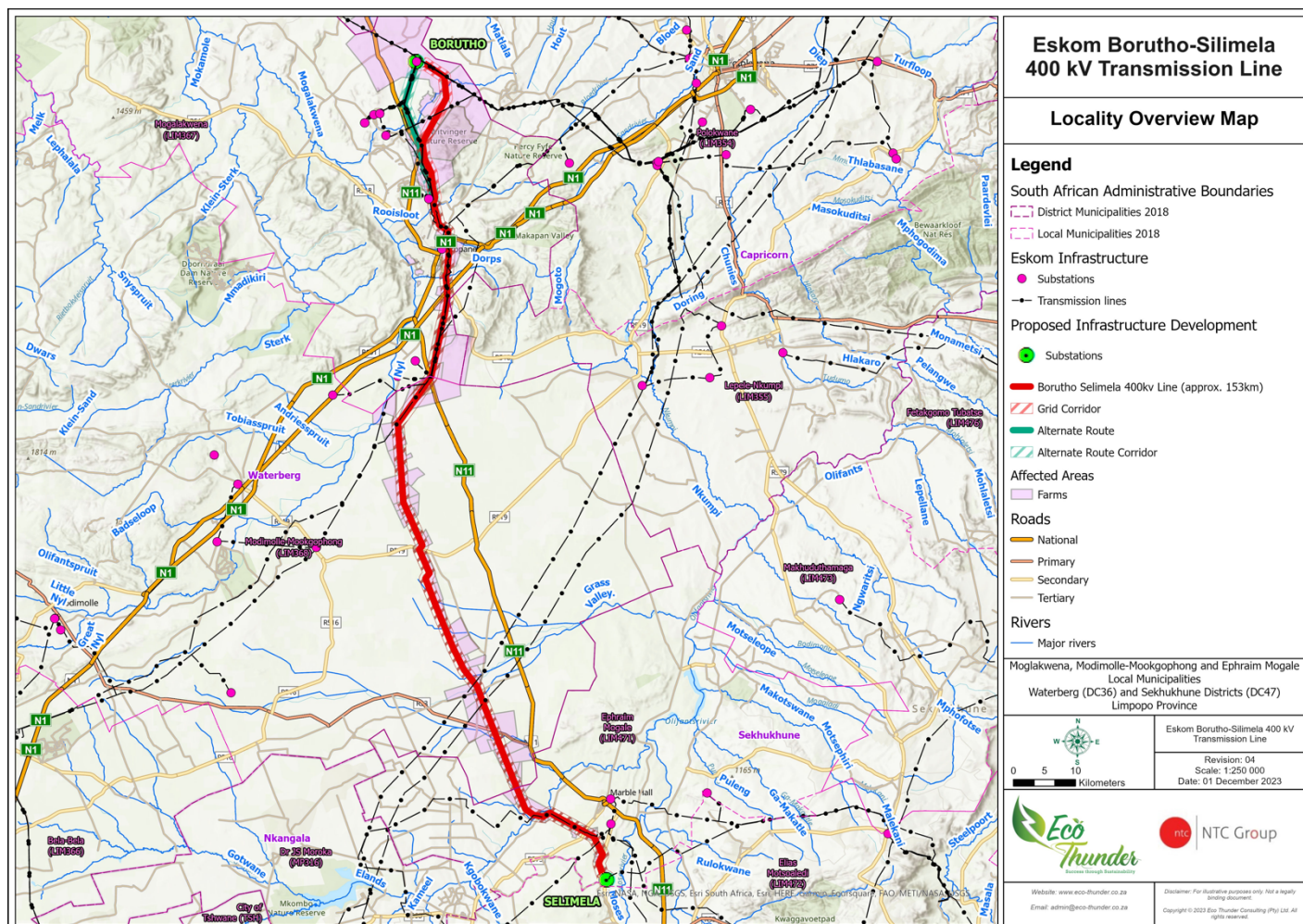
PROPERTIES	SGIDS
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Portion 10 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR	T0LR00000000086100010
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Portion 3 of Farm Uitloop 3 KS	T0KS00000000000300039
Portion 33 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS00000000004400033
Portion 35 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS00000000004400035
Portion 36 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS00000000004400036
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Portion 44 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS00000000004400044
Portion 43 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS00000000004400043
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Portion 05 Farm Kleinklipput 11 JS	T0JS00000000001100005
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COORDINATES						
FEATURE	LATITUDE (S)			LONGITUDE (E)		
	DEG	MIN	SEC	DEG	MIN	SEC
Start Point 1	23°	54'24	97"	28°	58'41	96"
Middle Point 2	24°	31'21	81"	28°	57'45	01"
End Point 3	25°	5'13	31"	29°	17'57	47"

APPENDIX 5 LOCALITY MAP



APPENDIX 6
SCREENING TOOL REPORT – ATTACHED

APPENDIX 7
NOT APPLICABLE

Subject: RE: 2024-02-0008
Date: Wednesday, 07 February 2024 at 15:20:53 South Africa Standard Time
From: Makhosi Yeni
To: Tebogo Mapinga, Karabo Mashabela
CC: Mahlatse Shubane, Olivia Letlalo
Attachments: image001.png

Dear Tebogo

Based on our telephonic conversation earlier today, it was confirmed that the preapplication meeting is not necessary.

You can attach this email as proof of our correspondence when submitting the application to EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za.

Regards
Makhosazane Yeni

From: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 11:35 AM
To: Makhosi Yeni <MYeni@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Mahlatse Shubane <MSHUBANE@dffe.gov.za>; Olivia Letlalo <OLetlalo@dffe.gov.za>; Tebogo Mapinga <tebogo@ntcgroup.co.za>
Subject: 2024-02-0008

Dear Makhosi.

Please note that you have been allocated an application:

Type of Application: Pre-Application Meeting Request;
Reference Number: 2024-02-0008;
Date Received: 05/02/2024;
Action Required: Decide on meeting request.

Kindly let Ephron know which date the meeting is to be held, if it will be set

EIA Applications
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za.

You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email

From: Tebogo Mapinga <tebogo@ntcgroup.co.za>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:37 PM
To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Karabo Mashabela <karabo@ntcgroup.co.za>

Subject: Re: Pre-Application Meeting Request - Proposed Highveld North-West and Lowveld Strengthening Project Eskom Borutho-Silimela 400 kV Transmission Line.

Good afternoon

Sorry about that, please find the attached application form for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Tebogo Mapinga (Pr.Sci.Nat)
Environmental Management Executive

072 738 3836



AMP Building | 17 Eaton Avenue | Bryanston | 2192 | Tel: 011 462 2022 | Fax: 086 692 8639
Email: Tebogo@ntcgroup.co.za | Web: www.ntcgroup.co.za

From: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>
Date: Monday, 05 February 2024 at 14:10
To: Tebogo Mapinga <tebogo@ntcgroup.co.za>
Cc: Karabo Mashabela <karabo@ntcgroup.co.za>
Subject: RE: Pre-Application Meeting Request - Proposed Highveld North-West and Lowveld Strengthening Project Eskom Borutho-Silimela 400 kV Transmission Line.

Dear Tebogo.

Kindly note that we cannot consider your pre-application meeting request, as you have not attached a pre-application meeting form. Kindly complete the attached and resubmit for consideration.

Regards

EIA Applications
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za.

You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.

From: Tebogo Mapinga <tebogo@ntcgroup.co.za>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 8:30 PM
To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>

Cc: Karabo Mashabela <karabo@ntcgroup.co.za>

Subject: Pre-Application Meeting Request - Proposed Highveld North-West and Lowveld Strengthening Project Eskom Borutho-Silimela 400 kV Transmission Line.

Good day

Please find that attached request for a pre-application form.

The proposed project entails the construction of a 400kV power line to connect Silimela Substation and the Borutho Substation. It should be noted that the proposed project was previously issued with an environmental authorisation on the 19 April 2011 with a validity period of 5 years. Eskom could not commence with construction activities of the power line within the given time and requested an extension of validity of the EA. DEA issued Eskom with extensions that were valid until 14 April 2020. Prior to expiry of the EA in April 2020 Eskom requested a further extension of the EA and this request was rejected by the Department on 28 February 2020. The reason for rejection of the amendment was that validity of this EA would have been for a period of more than 10 years and that environmental conditions on site would have changed. Therefore, Eskom appointed NTC Group was appointed to undertake the EIA Process for the project which was initially authorised in April 2011.

The project scope of work and the requirements as indicated in the DFFE Screening Report are clear and the EAP is of the opinion that a pre-application meeting will not be required. NTC did however propose dates should the Department see it fit that a pre-application meeting should be conducted.

Kind regards,

Tebogo Mapinga (Pr.Sci.Nat)
Environmental Management Executive

072 738 3836



AMP Building | 17 Eaton Avenue | Bryanston | 2192 | Tel: 011 462 2022 | Fax: 086 692 8639
Email: Tebogo@ntcgroup.co.za | Web: www.ntcgroup.co.za

Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2979

Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 at 09:28:00 South Africa Standard Time

From: Salome Mambane

To: Tebogo Mapinga, NTCGROUP PROJECTS, Tebogo Mapinga

CC: EIAAdmin, Makhosi Yeni, mukhubadm@eskom.co.za, R V. Mthombeni

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS) AND DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HIGHVELD NORTH-WEST AND LOWVELD STRENGTHENING PROJECT EXTENSION OF THE BORUTHO AND SILIMELA SUBSTATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF BORUTHO-SILIMELA 150KM 400 KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Basic Assessment Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 25 April 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 2 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but **must** be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Salome Mambane
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: 012 399 9385
Cell: 063 684 5431
Email: SMambane@dffe.gov.za



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2979

Enquiries: Ms Olivia Letlalo

Telephone: 012 399 8815 **E-mail:** oletlalo@dff.gov.za

Ms Rendani Rasivhetshela
NTC Group (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 2027
Northriding
JOHANNESBURG
2169

Telephone Number: 011 462 2022

Cellphone Number: 072 721 4835/ 072 738 3836

Email Address: projects@ntcgroup.co.za / tebogo@ntcgroup.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Rasivhetshela

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE BORUTHO-SILIMELA 150KM 400kV POWER LINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, WITHIN THE LEPELLE-NKUMPI, MOGALAKWENA, MODIMOLLE - MOOKGOPONG AND EPHRAIM LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated April 2024 and received by this Competent Authority (CA) on 25 April 2024, refers.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final BAR:

Project Description

- The CA acknowledges the project description provided on page 13 of the draft BAR and on page 9 of the application form, however, it has been noted that the project description provided on page 9 of the application form, is not as the same as that provided on page 13 of the draft BAR. Therefore, when submitting the final BAR and the amended application form, you are advised to provide a similar project description in both documents, and which includes the technical components of the proposed development with the associated infrastructures.
- In addition, you are advised to provide the technical details and the dimensions of the associated infrastructures such as substation and temporal/permanent laydown areas, and for linear activities such as roads or internal roads, you are advised to provide the length and width of the linear infrastructures.
- It has been noted that the proposed 400kV powerline will connect from both Borutho Substation and Silimela Substation, and that both substations are to be extended to accommodate the proposed 400kV, however, it is not provided which yards are to be extended on both substations to accommodate the proposed 400kV powerline. Therefore, you are advised to indicate if the extension of both substations will introduce a new construction of a 400kV yard or an extension of already existing 400kV yard.
- It has been noted that the basic assessment process has been followed for the proposed development as the grid infrastructure corridor falls within Electricity Grid Infrastructure (EGI) Corridor. The CA acknowledges

the attached pre-negotiated route agreements (Appendix 7B), however you are advised that as per Government Notice No 145 of 26 February 2021, you are required to submit the route negotiated with all landowners of the properties to be affected by the proposed development. Therefore, ensure you submit such agreements of the negotiated route in the final BAR.

- On page 14 of the draft BAR, it has been noted that both Borutho Substation and Silimela Substation are provided as infrastructures for the proposed development, while on page 13 of the draft BAR, it has been indicated that Silimela and Borutho substations already have been approved for construction under other Environmental Authorisations and as such, exist. Therefore, you are advised to provide clarity if both substations form part of this EA application or not.

SG 21 Digit Codes and Coordinates

- The CA acknowledges the SG 21 Digit Codes on page 16 to 20 of the draft BAR; however, you are advised to ensure that the farm names and numbers with their SG 21 Digit Codes provided in the final BAR are the same with those provided in Appendix 9 of the amended application form.
- The CA acknowledges the coordinates provide on page 20 of the draft BAR, however, for each property, you are advised to provide the powerline coordinates from the start, middle and end points. In addition, for the associated infrastructures such as the substation and laydown areas, you are advised to provide the four corner and centre points coordinates.

Screening Tool Report

- It has been noted that the screening tool reports for the powerline and associated infrastructures are included in the draft BAR, however, there is no EIA Reference numbers and compiler signatures on the aforesaid reports. Therefore, you are advised to provide the EIA reference number and sign the abovementioned reports to be submitted with the final BAR.

Listed Activities

- It has been noted that the word/s “**should and may**” have been used in the description of activity 19 of Listing Notice (LN) 1 and activity 9 of LN 2. Please refrain from using such word/s, since it creates an uncertainty regarding the applicability of the listed activity applied for, for the proposed development. In addition, please note that the project description and listed activities are not based on a precautionary approach.
- For activity 12 of LN 1, it has been noted that the placement of linear infrastructure (i.e., overhead powerlines) will be located within or within 32m of watercourses, however, the physical footprints of the linear infrastructures are not provided, therefore, you are advised to provide the physical footprint of the linear infrastructure/s which are 100 square meters or more and that are within 32m of a water course.
- For activity 19 of LN 1, the CA acknowledges that the listed activity will be triggered as the topsoil used within the facility will be removed from the identified areas within the site. This might include areas identified within wetlands. However, you are advised to provide the capacity of the materials which are more than 10 cubic meters to determine the applicability of this activity.
- For activity 28 of LN 1, the CA acknowledges that activity 28(ii) is triggered as the proposed powerline will transverse land used for agricultural purposes. The power line and associated infrastructure is located outside an urban area and will cover an area over one hectare or more. Please provide the size of the total land to be developed or cover by the powerline in hectares in order to determine the applicability of this listed activity.
- It has been noted that for activity 30 of Listing Notice (LN) 1, the proposed 400kV power line will transverse the Witvinger Nature Reserve and the Potgietersrus Nature Reserves. Therefore, for the description to trigger the listed activity, the CA advise you to note the following:
 - To obtain comments from the management authority of all the above-mentioned nature reserves.
 - To obtain comments from the DFFE Biodiversity Conservation, LEDET: Biodiversity Section; DFFE: Protected Areas and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).
- Based on the above, please note that since the proposed route will overlap or go through the Protected Areas, approval from the Management Authority in terms of the National Environmental Management:

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Protected Areas Act, 2003; Section 50 (5) for commercial and community activities in the National Park, and/or World Heritage Site must be obtained and be submitted with the final report. Comments from this Department's Protected Areas Directorate must be obtained to confirm whether approval from the Management Authority in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003; Section 50 (5) is required.

- For activity 4 of LN 3, please indicate the dimensions of the road to determine the applicability of this listed activity.
- It has been noted that activities in LN 3 have been applied for because the site falls "within critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans....". Therefore, you are requested to indicate in the project description of the aforesaid listed activities that the CA has adopted the biodiversity plans or bioregional plans. Proof confirming the adoption of systematic biodiversity plans from the relevant CA must be submitted with the final report. Should it be that the systematic biodiversity plan is not adopted, the activities would not be triggered.
- Kindly be advised that listed activities are not based on a precautionary approach. Please ensure that all the listed activities in the amended application form and final SR are clear and final for decision making purposes.
- Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. In addition, the onus is on the applicant and the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application and the final BAR. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.
- If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final BAR, an amended application form must be submitted for final review and decision making. Please note that the Department's has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>

Alternatives

- The CA acknowledges the discussion of the site alternatives on page 26 of the draft BAR, and that a 250m servitude route is being studied and the servitude for the proposed powerline will not be more than 90m wide within the 250m servitude. However, it has been indicated that the reason for studying a 250 wide route was to ensure that should there be a need to shift the powerline position, there would be room for movement. Therefore, you are advised provide a discussion of the powerline route alternatives with affected landowners and indicate the position of the preferred powerline route alternative (including the reasons as to why preferred) in the final BAR.
- On page 13 of the draft BAR, it has been indicated that no layout alternatives have been considered in this draft BAR, while it is provided that the position of the powerline is not confirmed with the 250m servitude. Therefore, when submitting the final BAR, within the proposed identified 250m wide servitude, you are advised to provide the discussion of the design and layout alternative and indicate the preferred layout alternative with the preferred powerline route alternative.
- Please note that Appendix 1(3)(1)(h)(x) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, requires that "if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such" must be included in the BAR. You are therefore required to provide motivation should other alternative sites, routes, layouts, and technologies not be considered. In addition, you are advised that motivation for not providing alternatives cannot be considered, especially if the proposed development will affect sensitive areas. You are advised to ensure that the final development layout avoids sensitive areas.
- A description of the process followed to reach the preferred alternative within the site as per Appendix 1(3)(1)(h)(i) of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended, must be incorporated into the final BAR.

Layout and Sensitivity Maps

- The CA acknowledges the attached Appendix A3 (layout map) submitted with the draft BAR, however, from the overall sensitivity map, please note that no activity is allowed within CBA 1.

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- In addition, it has been noted from the sensitivity map that the proposed grid connection traverse sensitive features such as wetlands, heritage sites, ESA's and CBA's, therefore, you are advised to provide buffers for the sensitive feature, no-go areas and mitigation measures i.e. spanning the waterbodies, /as recommended by the specialist to ensure avoidance of impacts on sensitive areas by the proposed development.
- Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
 - Position of all infrastructure e.g., the 132kV powerline, substation, electrical distribution infrastructure as per page of the application form.
 - Permanent laydown area footprint.
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed).
 - All existing infrastructure on the site.
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, ESAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected.
 - Buffer areas of the above sensitive areas; and
 - All "no-go" areas.
- Please ensure that the above map has a clear legend that communicates with details of the map.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows the proposed powerline with associated infrastructures as well as neighbouring powerlines.
- In addition, all available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the map and infrastructure must not encroach on highly sensitive areas as far as possible.
- Images and Google maps will not be accepted for decision-making purposes.

Specialist Assessments

- The CA acknowledges the attached Appendix E-L (specialist studies); however, it has been noted that site sensitivity verification report is not submitted with the draft BAR. **Therefore, you are advised to submit a site sensitivity verification report that, comply with the requirements of Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e., "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020**
- Based on the above, it is brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were published in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e., "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020, have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols unless proof is provided to demonstrate that the specialist assessments were commissioned prior to 50 days after the promulgation of GN 320 and after promulgation of GN1150 (30 October 2020).
- In addition to the above, you are hereby drawn to the following:
 - The Specialist Declaration of interest forms must be attached for all specialist studies to be conducted in the final BAR. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department's template).
 - Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of proposed rehabilitation, and all other proposed structures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
 - The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
 - Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
 - Please note further that the protocols require certain specialists' to be registered with SACNASP. Refer to the relevant protocols in this regard.
 - Please include a table in the final BAR summarising the specialist studies required by the Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies will be conducted or not, and motivation if any study will not be undertaken. Please note that if any of the specialists' studies and requirements recommended in

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the Department's Screening Tool are not commissioned, motivation for such must be provided in the report, as per the requirements of the Protocols.

- Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the Site Verification Report as required by the relevant environmental themes and assessments.
- Should it be determined that there is a need for additional specialist studies to be undertaken based on the outcome of public participation, these must be commissioned and be included in the final BAR reports for public comment.

Participation Process

- Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final BAR. This includes but not limited to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE): Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness Directorate, Biodiversity Planning and Conservation (BCAdmin@environment.gov.za); Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET); Eskom, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), South African Civil Aviation Authority, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Birdlife South Africa, Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation, South African National Defence Force, Local interest groups, for example: Councillors and Rate Payers associations; Surrounding landowners, Farmer Organisations, Environmental Groups and NGOs; and Grassroots communities and structures as well as the affected district and local municipalities.
- Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final BAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended and the approved Public Participation Plan.
- The comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final BAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.
- Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's comments) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed. Comments made by I&APs must be comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.

Cumulative Impact

- It has been noted that cumulative impacts for the proposed development has been provided as per specialist study, however, when submitting the final BAR, the cumulative impacts of the proposed development must be undertaken as per the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
- Based on the above, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
 - Assess the cumulative impacts of the proposed (not yet authorised), authorised (not yet constructed) and existing OHPL and substations.
 - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- The CA acknowledges both the substation and powerline generic EMPr's submitted with the draft BAR. You are advised to include these in the final BAR.

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- The generic EMPs must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word “should” or “may” are to be amended to “must”.

General

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 19(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: Where basic assessment must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority -

(a) a basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports, an EMP, and where applicable a closure plan, which have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority.”

Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the BAR or EMP which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 19(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: “the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports an EMP, and where applicable, a closure plan, will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the basic assessment report or EMP or, where applicable, a closure plan, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in sub-regulation (1)(a) and that the revised reports or, EMP or, where applicable, a closure plan will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days”.

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 19 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms Olivia Letlalo

Designation: Deputy Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects


Date: 24/05/2024

cc	Madinare Mukhuba	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited	Tel: 011 516 7350	Email: mukhubdm@eskom.co.za
	Mr Rhulani Mthombeni	Limpopo (LEDET)	Tel: 015 293 8300	Email: mthombeniRV@ledet.gov.za

Annexure 1

1. Format for Comments and Response Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP,	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/03/2021 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: National Infrastructure Projects (Joe Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

NTC GROUP (PTY) LTD 1 st Floor, CDH Building 1 Protea Place Sandton 2031 VAT No.: 4860268061	
Tel: 011 462 2022 Fax: 0866 928 639 e-mail: projects@ntcgroup.co.za	

08 July 2024

Dear Olivia Letlalo

**RE: BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED HIGHVELD NORTH-WEST AND
LOWVELD STRENGTHENING PROJECT EQUIPPING OF BORUTHO AND SILIMELA
SUBSTATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF 55KM BORUTHO-SILIMELA 400 kV TRANSMISSION
POWER LINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, WITHIN THE SEKHUKHUNE AND
WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE
DFFE REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2979**

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (Eskom) has appointed NTC Group as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to undertake the required Basic Assessment (BA) Process in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014 (as amended) for the Borutho – Silimela 400kV Powerline between the existing Borutho and Silimela Substations, approximately 150km in extent, Limpopo Province.

Public Participation was conducted as per Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations 2014 (GN R982) (as amended). The draft BAR was submitted to the DFFE and also placed for public review from the 25 April 2024 to the 03 June 2024. Subsequent to the completion of the public review period a section of the power line was amended. The amendment entailed the deviation/relocation of the power line from the Farm Bokpoort 328KR Portion 1 to Portions 2 and 4 of the Farm Gegund 332 KR, Remainder Portion of the Farm Doelen 327 KR and Portion 8 of the Farm Blinkwater 331 KR. Refer to Figure 1 below. Please note that Portions 2 and 4 of the Farm Gegund 332 KR, Remainder Portion of the Farm Doelen 327 KR and Portion 8 of the Farm Blinkwater 331 KR did not form part of the initial scope of work and Farm Portions were not assessed by the specialists and the Environmental Assessment Practitioner.

As per Regulation 19 (b) of GN 982, the deviation of the powerline is considered as a change in the scope of work therefore resulting in the addition of new information which was not communicated to the DFFE and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). Therefore, NTC would like to notify the Department that the Final Basic Assessment Report will be submitted within 140 days from the date of submission of the application. The application was submitted to the Department on the 25 April 2024, therefore the

Final BAR must be submitted before the 18 September 2024. This will allow sufficient time for the EAP and the specialists to amend the reports accordingly and allow the additional 30 days Public Participation Process to be undertaken.

In terms of the public participation of the report we propose the following:

- Release of the amended Draft BAR for 30 days review period as per the EIA Regulations.
- A newspaper advert will be placed in the Sunday World.
- Notification letters will be sent to inform Registered I&APs of the availability of the amended Draft BAR for review and comment. The Draft BAR will be made available to Landowners, Registered I&APs and Organs of State via SMS and E-mail.
- English and Sepedi Site Notices will be placed at conspicuous places informing the public of the availability of the Draft BAR for review and comment.
- The report will be available at the following venues and or Platforms:
 - NTC Group website: www.ntcgroup.co.za
 - Mokopane Local Library;
 - Mogalakwena Local Municipality;
 - Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality;
 - Ga-Sekhaelo Tribal Authority House; and
 - On request from NTC.
- A Focus Group meeting will be held (virtual or in-person).

We hope you will find the above to be in order and we look forward to the Departments feedback.

Kind Regards,



NTC GROUP (PTY) LTD

Tebogo Mapinga

Tel: +27 11 462 2022

Email: ppp@ntcgroup.co.za

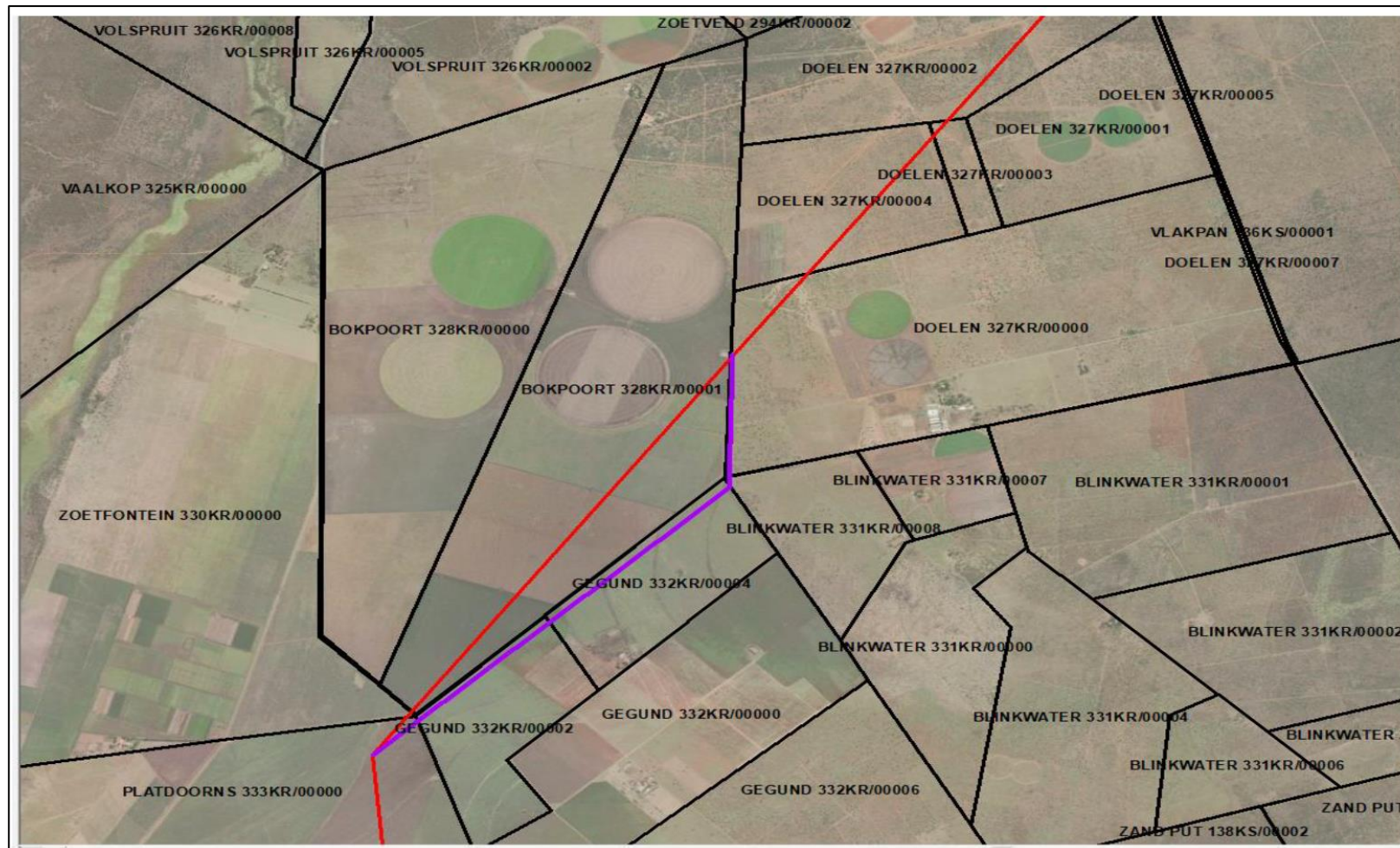


Figure 1: Layout map depicts the assessed powerline route (Red line) and the proposed deviation of the powerline¹ (Purple line)

¹ Deviation Co-ordinated: Start- 24°25'42.23"S 28°57'12.73"E; Middle- 24°24'37.55"S 28°58'26.76"E; End- 24°23'29.76"S 28°58'52.93"E

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2031

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Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2979
Date: Tuesday, 09 July 2024 at 13:29:53 South Africa Standard Time
From: Ephron Maradwa
To: Tebogo Mapinga
CC: Makhosi Yeni, Salome Mambane, EIAAdmin

Dear Tebogo

14/12/16/3/3/1/2979

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NOTIFICATION IN TERMS REGULATION 19(1)(B), OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 AS AMENDED FOR THE PROPOSED HIGHVELD NORTH-WEST AND LOWVELD STRENGTHENING PROJECT EXTENSION OF THE BORUTHO AND SILIMELA SUBSTATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF BORUTHO-SILIMELA 150KM 400 KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the notification in terms of Regulation 19 (1)(b) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended for the abovementioned project on 09 July 2024.

Please take note of Regulation 19 (1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that *“and that the revised reports or EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days.”*

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7) of these Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.

EIA Applications

Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za.

-
You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.

